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November 17, 2010

Writer's Direct Access
Thomas B. Magee
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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

Re:

Notice of Ex Parte Communication

WC Docket No. 07-245 ("Pole Attachment Proceeding"); and GN Docket No. 09-51 ("National Broadband Plan Proceeding")

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Please accept this letter, filed pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, as notice that on November 16, 2010, representatives of 32 electric utilities and their trade associations met with Federal Communications Commission Staff to discuss issues of concern to utility pole owners in the Pole Attachment proceeding.

FCC Staff included representatives of the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bill Dever, Richard Kwigtkowski, Al Lewis, Jeremy Miller, Wes Platt, Jonathan Reel and Marv Sacks), the Enforcement Bureau (Lisa Saks, Jacky Spindler and Alex Starr), and Christine Kurth of Commissioner McDowell's office.

Forty-nine people represented the electric utility industry and their names are included on the attached sign-in sheet. They include representatives of the Edison Electric Institute ("EEI"), the Utilities Telecom Council ("UTC"), and the following electric utilities:

Ameren Services Company

American Electric Power

Baltimore Gas and Electric

CenterPoint Energy Central Maine Power

Dominion Virginia Power

Duke Energy

Duquesne Light Company

Edison International (SoCal Edison)

Florida Power and Light

Georgia Power National Grid

New York State Electric and Gas

Oncor Electric Delivery Pacific Gas and Electric

Potomac Electric Power Company

PPL Electric Utilities Rochester Gas and Electric

Tampa Electric Company

Also in attendance were attorneys representing EEI/UTC, the Alliance for Fair Pole Attachment Rules (American Electric Power, Duke Energy, Entergy, Florida Power and Light,

Washington, D.C.

Brussels

San Francisco

Shanghai

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Progress Energy and Southern Company), the Coalition of Concerned Utilities (Allegheny Power, Baltimore Gas and Electric, Dayton Power and Light, FirstEnergy Corp., NSTAR, PPL Electric Utilities, South Dakota Electric Utilities, and Wisconsin Public Service Co.), the Florida Investor-Owned Electric Utilities (Florida Power and Light, Tampa Electric, Progress Energy Florida, Gulf Power Co., and Florida Public Utilities Co.), Oncor Electric Delivery, and Pole Owners Working for Equitable Regulation (Ameren Services Company, CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric, and Virginia Electric and Power Company).

Representatives of eleven (11) different electric utilities discussed the attached PowerPoint presentation, which highlights the realities of the pole attachment process. They explained that the process cannot simply follow a cookie-cutter approach. Make-ready design and construction is often difficult and complex and requires the cooperation of multiple parties. Everyone involved, including communications companies and the public, need to be assured that careful due diligence has been applied to all the safety and operational factors involved in the process. And because it is so complicated, it is not a process that lends itself to narrow government mandates.

We described the process that utilities go through in accommodating attaching entities, which has helped to enable communications companies to provide broadband service to 95% of the country to date. We therefore explained how the current system has worked well without extensive government oversight.

We also explained that electric distribution systems are dangerous and complex, and that that each make-ready job is different, as is each utility performing the make-ready. We also described some of the numerous factors that are entirely outside of anyone's control that can delay a project.

We explained our view that moving this activity from qualified field work to an FCC regulation environment will make the process more burdensome for everyone – the pole owners, the communications attachers and the FCC, while doing very little to promote broadband deployment.

We described the cooperation that must exist in order for the process to work and the cooperative relationship that currently exists among the vast majority of pole owners and attaching entities.

Following our presentation, we also briefly discussed the differences between joint use and third party pole attachment agreements, and issues pertaining to wireless antenna attachments.

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We appreciate the Staff's attention to these matters. Please feel free to contact the undersigned if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Thomas B. Magee Jack Richards Attorneys for the

Coalition of Concerned Utilities

Attachments

cc: The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman

The Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner

The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner

The Honorable Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

The Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker, Commissioner

Zac Katz

Margaret McCarthy

Angela Kronenberg

Christine Kurth

Bradley Gillen

Sharon Gillett

Cathy Seidel

William Dever

Richard Kwigtkowski

Al Lewis

Jeremy Miller

Wes Platt

Jonathan Reel

Mary Sacks

Lisa Saks

Jacky Spindler

Alex Starr

Electric Utility Pole Attachment Meeting for FCC Staff

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Title	Company
Ton Hagee	Partner	Kellerand Heckman UP
David Glenwright	Mauager-Attachments	PPL Electric Utilities
Scor LIEBEL	SURV. BNGINHOR-JOINT USE	AMEREN
JUE SMORE	MML - TELECOM ATTACHME	NATIONAL GRIO
Pam Elus	MGR UTILITY BUSINESS DEV	
JAY GRIZES	MANACKA- CUST. Schumon	DOMNION
THOMAS T. Kennedy	Prince Mars Autory Mars Auto	
Karen Flewharty	ONCOR Electric Deliver	
ALLEN BELL	DISTRIBUTION MGR	GEULGIA POWER
Andy Eussel	St Project Max	Duke Energy
Cinoi Salas	DIRECTOR LAND X FIELD SERVICES	CENTEN SOINT EVERGY
Eric L. O'Brien	J.U. Supervisor	Tampe Electore Company
Jon athan Ress	HELB/CPD	FLL
Al Lewis	Chief, Pricing Policy Division WCB	FCC
Wes Platt	Staff, WCB/CPD	†CC

Name	Title	Company
Jereny Miller	Deputy Chrof, IAD, wcB wcB- Pricing Policy Div.	FCC
Marv Sacks	WCB- Pricing Policy Div.	FCC
Richard Kwigtkowski	WCB - Pricing Policy Division	FCC
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David Arthur	Director, Federal Legislative Affairs	PPL Corp
Parryll Wilson	Joint Use Coordinator	Georgia Power Company
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RAYMOND KOWALSKI	ATTORNEY	ECKERT SEAMANS
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Steve Atkinson	Mgr., Engineering	Pepco
KEN GUBBRT	CEADER-JOINT USE DSBN	FPL

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Bretikilbourne	Deputy General Coursel	UTC
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ATT Szelistowski	Director - Engineering and operations support	Tampa Electric Co.
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Robert Perkins		Newyork state electric+Gas NT + Rochester fas + Electric
CANDLER GINN	HOUSET THOMSON	GEORGIA POWER CO
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RICHARD Meeicen	Sa Information Analyst	BBE

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Alex Starr	Attorney	FCC
Bill Dever	Attorney	FCC-WCB-CPD
Russ Campbell	Partner	Balch & Bingham LLP
Jacky Spindler	Attorney	FCC . EB